



# AlaKiDS

ALABAMA KINDERGARTEN INVENTORY OF DEVELOPING SKILLS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is AlaKiDS?

- AlaKiDS is a whole child assessment given the first month of Kindergarten that will provide the Kindergarten teacher with needed information on a child's independent skills and abilities. This will be a valuable tool to help guide instruction and set goals for each child.

### Why AlaKiDS?

- Due to COVID19, Alabama's early learning programs, child care, and livelihoods of families have been disrupted. This disruption has put many of Alabama's children at risk of entering kindergarten behind the widely held expectation of a typically developing five-year-old. AlaKiDS is a whole child assessment that will provide the Kindergarten teacher with needed information on a child's independent skills and abilities.

### How will the assessment be given?

- Teachers will administer the assessment during the first month of school to obtain the most accurate results. Assessment is administered in small group settings and/or with individual child. AlaKiDS is an online portfolio with a paper version included for data collection purposes. A materials kit will be provided.

### How long does the assessment take?

- Teachers will have 3-4 weeks from the beginning of school to give the assessment. It does not have to be administered in a particular time frame as long as all children are completed by the fourth week.

### Can assessment be done virtually if needed?

- Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education is currently working to respond to this possibility. There is a family engagement component with AlaKiDS.

### What materials are needed for AlaKiDS?

- Teachers will be provided a kit with prompts and manipulatives needed to complete assessment. Teachers will have a unique username, allowing them to access AlaKiDS platform the **end of July**.

### Will teachers need to be trained to administer AlaKiDS?

- **Kindergarten teachers and school level Reading Specialist** will attend virtual trainings on how to administer AlaKiDS. **Sessions will take place in 2, 3-hour blocks over two consecutive days.** Teachers will be sent information and handouts electronically before their session date.

### Will teachers receive PD credit for training?

- Within a week of completing the sessions, participants will receive a certificate of completion with contact hours.

### What support can teachers expect?

- Teachers and School Admin will be provided support through **ARI Regional Literacy Specialist**. ARI Regional Specialist only attend a Deeper Dive session July 21st & July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

